THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) As per the available estimates from DGCI&S exports during April—September, 1996 and the corresponding period during last year and growth rates are given below:—

Exports	April-Sept. 1995-96	April-Sept. 1996-97	Growth Rate
Re. terms	46591	56800	21.91%
$ terms	14684	16139	9.9%

Exports have increased by 9.9% in dollar terms and 21.91% in rupee terms during April—September, 1996 over the corresponding period last year.

(c) The slower growth in exports at 9.9% in dollar terms has been achieved on a higher base value achieved due to a sustained export growth in recent years at 18-20 per cent. A paradigm shift in demand for soft goods in international markets, a slow down in world exports growth, infrastructural bottlenecks, cost of export credit as well as tariff and non-tariff barriers could be cited amongst reasons for a slower growth.

(d) Exports promotion is a continuous activity; the measures taken for export promotion include simplification of policy & procedures promoting joint ventures & bilateral trade relations improving efficiency & competitiveness, de-bottlenecking of export infrastructure and interaction with exporting community.

Royalty rates on Diamonds

949. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee set up to examines the royalty rates on diamonds in India and compare them with royalties internationally had submitted a report to the Government;

(b) whether the recommendations made by the Committee have been examined; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASADYADAV): (a) to (c) The Government constituted a Study Group on 30.1.95 for carrying out detailed review of rates of royalty and dead rent applicable to major minerals (other than Coal, lignite and sand for stowing) including diamonds in India. The Study Group has inter-alia considered the royalty rates in important mineral producing countries also and has submitted its report to the Government in Nov. 1995. Report of the Study Group has been examined and the revision of royalty rates is under consideration of the Government.

New Gold deposits in the Country

950. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minsiter of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new deposits of gold have been located in the Chitradurga and other districts of Karnataka and other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken to extract gold from the newly identified gold mines?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Geological Survey of India (GSI), through mineral investigations, has located new deposits of gold in various parts of the country. The details of such deposits, as located by GSI are given below:—

State	Distt.	Quantity (million tonne)	Grade
Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	0.4	6 gram/tonne
	Anantapur	0.11	2.02 gram/tonne
Karnataka	Chitradurga	0.6	04 gram/tonne 100 gram/tonne (silver)
	Raichur	0.47	11.99 gram/tonne
	Dharwar	1.5	3 gram/tonne
	Tumkur	0.77 (Ajjanahalli Main Block)	2.09 gram/tonne
		0.38 (Ajjanahalli West Block)	1.3 gram/tonne
Kerala	Mallapuram	0.065	1.75 gram/tonne
	Palakkan		10.00 gram/tonne
Maharashtra	Nagpur	0.137	5.23 gram/tonne
Madhya Pradesh	Sidhi	2.1	1.28 gram/tonne
Rajasthan	Banswara	0.015 (Oxidized ore)	1.7 gram/tonne
		0.98 (Primary ore)	1.49 to 2.5 gram/tonne

Based on the economic viability of the deposits a prospective exploitation agency is free to extract gold after obtaining Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease in accordance with law.

Development of catalytic convertor for cars

951. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists from India and Australia have embarked on a joint programme to develop a catalytic convertor for cars to reduce the alarming air pollution levels in major cities of the coutnry, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Industry is not aware of any such programme.

Revival of ailing PSUs

952. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have yet not acted in a positive direction to assist/ revive and to deal with effectively for larger good of ailing Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) whether delay has caused enough concern so as to destabilise Indian economy in the perspective of PSUs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Opening of a Gold Jewellery show room by MMTC at Mumbai

953. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MMTC has decided to open a show room at Mumbai to exhibit, sell and popularise 24/22 carat gold jewellery;

(b) the details in this regard;